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NEWS RELEASE

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HANFORD MAN INDICTED ON CHILD PORNOGRAPHY CHARGES ORDERED DETAINED AS DANGER AND FLIGHT RISK

FRESNO—United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that TIMOTHY ANDREW ALVES, 56, of Hanford, California was indicted by a federal grand jury, charged with one count of receiving and distributing child pornography, and one count of possessing child pornography. The indictment alleges that from March 28, 2007 until February 21, 2008, ALVES received and distributed images involving the sexual exploitation of minors. In addition, the indictment alleges that on February 21, 2008, he was in possession of such images.

This case is the product of an extensive joint investigation by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security/Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, known as OPERATION PREDATOR, which was undertaken as part of Project Safe Childhood (PSC).

PSC is a United States Department of Justice initiative established to increase federal prosecutions of violent sexual predators of children, and to reduce the number of Internet crimes against children including child pornography trafficking. As a part of PSC, the United States Attorney's Office has teamed with state and local agencies and organizations to increase law enforcement presence on the Internet and to educate the public about safe Internet use, thereby reducing the risk that children might fall prey to online sexual predators. For additional information on the PSC initiative, please go to www.projectsafefchildhood.gov or call the United States Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of California and ask to speak with the PSC coordinator.

According to court documents previously filed in this case, on February 21, 2008, ICE executed a federal search warrant on ALVES's residence based on information that ALVES engaged in sexually explicit and violent online conversations with a federal agent acting in an undercover capacity. Numerous e-mail and chat sessions obtained during the undercover online conversations indicated that ALVES was sexually attracted to children and was attempting to engage in activity to produce images of child pornography. A review of stored e-mail contents revealed multiple e-mails in which ALVES discussed his desire to sexually abuse children. In addition, in online undercover conversations, ALVES discussed his desire to take nude images of the undercover agent's children and further discussed his experience in making money by selling such images.

ALVES was arrested on February 21, 2008 and taken into federal custody. A criminal complaint was filed the next day. A detention hearing was scheduled for February 26, 2008. and the government

requested that he remain detained as a danger to the community and a flight risk. At ALVES's attorney's request, the detention hearing was continued until February 28, 2008. Following the hearing, the Honorable Magistrate Judge Sandra M. Snyder ordered him detained in federal custody as a danger and a flight risk.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Sherrill A. Carvalho, who is prosecuting the case, if convicted of the charges as alleged in the indictment, ALVES faces up to 20 years imprisonment and a mandatory minimum of five years imprisonment for receipt and distribution of material involving the sexual exploitation of minors. Possession of child pornography is punishable for up to 10 years in prison. Both offenses provide for a possible lifetime term of supervised release and a fine of up to \$250,000. The actual sentence will be dictated by the Federal Sentencing Guidelines, which take into account a number of factors, and will be imposed at the discretion of the court.

The charges are only allegations and the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

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